

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

inserting an intubation-tube placement device, secured to an intubation tube, into a patient's oral cavity;

detecting the cartilaginous rings of the trachea via at least one tactile-accentuator device coupled to the intubation-tube placement device;

forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords;
and

axially sliding the intubation tube along the intubation-tube placement device such that the intubation tube follows the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords.

67. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said intubation-tube placement device comprises a light source.

68. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:

suctioning materials from a vicinity of the patient's vocal cords via a suction tube formed by the intubation-tube placement device.

69. (Original) The method of Claim 68, wherein the suction tube formed by the intubation-tube placement device comprises:

the intubation-tube placement device forming a hollow tube.

70. (Original) The method of Claim 68, wherein the suction tube formed by the intubation tube placement device comprises:

the intubation-tube placement device forming a hollow tube;
an anti-perforation device having a trailing portion and an exploratory portion;
a channel between the trailing portion and the exploratory portion of said anti-perforation device; and

the trailing portion coupled to said intubation-tube placement device such that the channel substantially aligns with the hollow tube.

71. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:

applying axial pressure along the intubation-tube placement device such that the intubation-tube placement device moves into the patient's trachea.

72. (Canceled)

73. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

inserting an intubation-tube placement device having an exploratory portion shaped to prevent the intubation-tube placement device from perforating an internal body structure during insertion, into a patient's oral cavity;

detecting the cartilaginous rings of the trachea via at least one tactile-accentuator device coupled to the intubation-tube placement device;

forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords;
and

axially sliding an intubation tube along the intubation-tube placement device such that the intubation tube follows the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 73 wherein said intubation-tube placement device comprises a light source.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 73 wherein said forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:

suctioning materials from a vicinity of the patient's vocal cords via a suction tube formed by the intubation-tube placement device.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 75 wherein the suction tube formed by the intubation-tube placement device comprises a hollow tube.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 76 wherein the intubation-tube placement device comprises:

a trailing portion; and

a channel between the trailing portion and the exploratory portion, wherein the channel substantially aligns with the hollow tube.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein said forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:

applying axial pressure along the intubation-tube placement device such that the intubation-tube placement device moves into the patient's trachea.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Previously Presented) An intubation device, comprising:

an intubation placement device having a bendable first end configured to be introduced through a set of vocal cords; and

a retention device coupled to the placement device and configured to removably secure an intubation tube in position on the placement device with the first end of the placement device extending out of the intubation tube.

81. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the retention device comprises a rubber stopper having a center hole configured to receive the intubation placement device.

82. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 81 wherein the rubber stopper is configured to be partially received into the intubation tube.

83. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a hollow tube.

84. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 83, further comprising:
a fiber optic cable configured to extend into the intubation placement device.

85. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a semi-rigid material.

86. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 85 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a bendable rod.

87. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a medical-grade polymeric material.

88. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the first end of the intubation placement device comprises an anti-perforation device.

89. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the first end of the intubation placement device comprises a tactile-accentuator configured to detect cartilaginous rings of a trachea.

90. (Previously Presented) A method of intubating a patient, comprising:

securing an intubation tube on a first portion of a endotracheal placement device such that a bendable second portion of the endotracheal placement device extends out through the intubation tube;

subsequently guiding the second portion of the endotracheal placement device through the patient's vocal cords; and

guiding the intubation tube through the patient's vocal cords such that a portion of the intubation tube follows the second portion of the endotracheal placement device through the patient's vocal cords.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, further comprising:
subsequently removing the endotracheal placement device from the intubation tube, leaving the intubation tube in position in the patient.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91 wherein subsequently removing the endotracheal placement device from the intubation tube comprises twisting the endotracheal placement device and the endotracheal tube in opposite directions to sever a retention device.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 90 wherein the endotracheal placement device comprises a hollow tube and guiding the endotracheal placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:

suctioning materials from a vicinity of the patient's vocal cords.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90 wherein guiding the second portion of the endotracheal placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:
detecting cartilaginous rings with a tactile-accentuator device coupled to the endotracheal placement device.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90 wherein the intubation tube comprises a wall, further comprising:
providing a plurality of ventilation holes along the wall in the portion of endotracheal tube that follows the endotracheal placement device.

96. (Previously Presented) An intubation device, comprising:
an intubation tube having a first end;
an endotracheal placement device having a semi-rigid first end configured to pass through vocal cords and into a trachea; and
a retention device configured to removably secure the intubation tube on the endotracheal placement device with the first end of the endotracheal placement device extending out of the first end of the intubation tube.

97. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein:
the retention device comprises a rubber stopper having a hole;
the retention device is configured to frictionally receive the endotracheal placement device in the hole; and
a second end of the intubation tube is configured to partially receive the retention device.

98. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein the retention device comprises a detachable portion of a second end of the intubation tube.

99. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein a second end of the endotracheal placement device extends out of a second end of the intubation tube.

100. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein the endotracheal placement device comprises a semi-rigid rod.

101. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein a tip of the first end of the intubation tube has a rounded shape.

102. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 101 wherein the tip of the first end of the intubation tube has an opening having a diameter approximately equal to a diameter of the endotracheal placement device.

103. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 102 wherein a portion of a wall of the intubation tube adjacent to the first end of the intubation tube has a plurality of ventilation openings.

104. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein a tip of the first end of the intubation tube is tapered.

105. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 104 wherein the tip of the first end of the intubation tube is configured to taper to approximately a diameter of the endotracheal placement device.

106. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 105 wherein a portion of a wall of the intubation tube adjacent to the first end of the intubation tube has a plurality of ventilation openings.

107. (Previously Presented) The intubation tube of claim 96 wherein a portion of a wall of the intubation tube adjacent to the first end of the intubation tube has a plurality of ventilation openings.

108. (Previously Presented) The intubation tube of claim 107 wherein the intubation tube comprises an inflatable cuff and the plurality of ventilation openings are located on the wall between the first end of the intubation tube and the inflatable cuff.

109. (Previously Presented) An intubation device, comprising:
means for introducing the intubation device through vocal cords; and
means for removably securing an intubation tube to the means for introducing with a bendable portion of the means for introducing extending out of the intubation tube.

110. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 109 wherein the means for introducing comprises an intubation placement device.

111. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 109 wherein the means for removably securing comprises a rubber stopper.

112. (Currently Amended) An intubation tube, comprising:
a first end having a first opening;
a second end having a tip with an opening having a diameter approximately equal to a diameter of a placement device and configured to pass through a set of vocal cords;
a plurality of openings on a portion of a wall of the intubation tube adjacent to the second end of the intubation tube.

113. (Currently Amended) The intubation tube of claim 112 wherein ~~a~~the tip of the second end of the intubation tube has a rounded shape.

114-115. (Canceled)

116. (Previously Presented) The intubation tube of claim 112 wherein the second end of the intubation tube is tapered.

117-118. (Canceled)

119. (New) The intubation device of claim 109 wherein the means for removable securing comprises a detachable portion of the intubation tube.

120. (New) The intubation device of claim 119 wherein the detachable portion comprises a perforated border.

121. (New) The intubation device of claim 98 wherein the intubation tube comprises a perforated border configured to facilitate detaching the detachable portion from the second end of the intubation tube.

122. (New) The method of claim 90, further comprising:
breaking a perforated border along a portion of the intubation tube coupled to the endotracheal placement device.

123. (New) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the retention device comprises a detachable portion of the intubation tube.

124. (New) The intubation device of claim 123 wherein a border of the detachable portion is perforated.

125. (New) The method of claim 73, further comprising:

breaking a perforated border along a portion of the intubation tube configured to secure the intubation-tube placement device to the intubation tube.

126. (New) The method of claim 66, further comprising:
breaking a perforated border along a portion of the intubation tube.